

**To:** Higuchi, Dean[Higuchi.Dean@epa.gov]  
**From:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2015 10:09:42 PM  
**Subject:** RE: 8/10/15 statement from EPA on the Gold King Mine Release

Thanks!

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

Cell: 303-204-1930

**From:** Higuchi, Dean  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:30 PM  
**To:** Russo, Rebecca; Maier, Brent  
**Subject:** RE: 8/10/15 statement from EPA on the Gold King Mine Release

Hi Rebecca,

I'm not getting word back from our R9 folks, you may want to send the reply, and just let her know we are confirming which agencies at the state and local levels. Here is a list of things going on from the R9 Update we got this morning:

- Currently R9 has 23 staff/contractors on site, with that number likely increasing to closer to 30 later this week.
- R9 continues to have daily communications with Navajo Nation representatives to coordinate on water sampling, community outreach and other response efforts.
- R9 Administrator Blumenfeld is traveling to the area this week with the Administrator.
- R9 is conducting water sampling along the San Juan River in the Navajo Nation at 11 monitoring sites.

- R9 is working to set up a Region 9-lead public meeting with Navajo Nation citizens. Date:TBA
- Working with Region 6, a toll-free number has been established for citizens requesting sampling for their water well, or if they need water for livestock or agricultural irrigation. EPA will be doing the sampling. The number is 844-607-9700.
- EPA (R9) is paying for water hauling services to deliver water to areas impacted by the discharge. The wells for the NTUA - Montezuma Creek public water system were shut down as a precaution prior to the contaminant plume reaching the area. NTUA will be providing hauled water from the NTUA – Aneth public water system to the Montezuma Creek service area. The Montezuma Creek system is a groundwater system, but some of the wells are 100 feet from the river, so the wells were closed as a precaution.

Thanks!

Dean Higuchi

Press Officer/Congressional Liaison/Public Affairs

US EPA, Region 9, Hawaii Office

[higuchi.dean@epa.gov](mailto:higuchi.dean@epa.gov)

808-541-2711

**From:** Russo, Rebecca

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 8:04 AM

**To:** Higuchi, Dean; Maier, Brent

**Subject:** RE: 8/10/15 statement from EPA on the Gold King Mine Release

Thanks Dean.

I've started my response to Angelia, but need some additional information.

We need to add in a response to this specific question: if they are in contact with local agencies, State agencies, and the Navajo Nation. Can you fill that in? What State Agencies, what local agencies?

THANKS!

Hi Angelia,

Here is some information on EPA Region 9 personnel on the ground. In Utah, EPA presence is for Navajo Nation, so while the state of Utah is geographically located in EPA Region 8, all of Navajo Nation is geographically located in EPA Region 9.

We have 2 field commanders (on scene coordinators) in Farmington NM to serve our Navajo and AZ constituents. We have 2 community outreach personnel there as well. We have a command post in Farmington to coordinate with affected states and tribes and other entities. We have 6 environmental samplers and 7 additional coast guard staff for incident support.

EPA personnel in the area are coordinating with XXX (State Agencies), XXX( Local Agencies), and the Navajo Nation. In addition, we are coordinating with UT, AZ and federal officials at NPS, USGS and BOR.

Rebecca A. Russo

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**From:** Angelia Crowther [<mailto:acrowther@utah.gov>]

**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 8:10 PM

**To:** Russo, Rebecca

**Subject:** Re: 8/10/15 statement from EPA on the Gold King Mine Release

Thank you for the press release Rebecca! The release states that EPA has representatives in Utah and you let me know who they are and if they are in contact with local agencies, State agencies, and the Navajo Nation.

Angelia Crowther, *Community Support Liaison*

State of Utah DPS

Division of Emergency Mgmt.

Castle Country & Four Corners Area

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On Mon, Aug 10, 2015 at 7:35 PM, Russo, Rebecca <[Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov](mailto:Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov)> wrote:

Hi all,

Please find attached the latest statement from EPA on the Gold King Mine Release.

Rebecca

Rebecca A. Russo

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